

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09445 111006Z

16

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 IO-13 EUR-12 /104 W
----- 082755

P R 110715Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1586

INFO USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 9445

FOR AGRICULTURAL, FAS, LOOPER AND MEEKER PRIORITY

FROM: AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EEWT, CH

SUBJECT: HONG KONG GRAIN TRADE REACTION TO SECRETARY BUTZ
CHICAGO SPEECH

REF: (A) HONG KONG 8392; (B) TOFAS 57

1. AGOFFICER CONTACTED BY ONE CORRESPONDENT AND TWO GRAIN TRADERS SEEKING DETAILS OF SECRETARY BUTZ AUGUST 9 SPEECH IN CHICAGO IN WHICH SECRETARY REPORTEDLY STATED THAT U.S. TRADERS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH PRC OFFICIALS FOR SALE OF U.S. GRAIN TO CHINA. REPORTER AND ONE TRADER QUOTED REUTER TICKER AS SOURCE WHILE OTHER TRADER AND AGOFFICER HEARD REPORT ON HONG KONG RADIO (WHICH LAST NIGHT ADDED THAT U.S. EXPECTED PROVIDE GRAIN AS EARTHQUAKE RELIEF).

2. COMMENT: AGOFFICER COULD PROVIDE NO DETAILS SINCE NO TEXT OF SPEECH YET RECEIVED AT CONGEN. TRADERS TEND TO QUESTION
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PAGE 02 HONG K 09445 111006Z

REPORT FOR SEVERAL REASONS INCLUDING: (A) 1976 PRC WINTER

WHEAT HARVEST BELIEVED TO BE RECORD(SEE REFS A AND B);
(B) EARLY RICE CROP BELIEVED TO BE GOOD; (C) PRC HAS NOT YET
PUCHASED MINIMUM REQUIRED UNDER AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN 3-
YEAR WHEAT AGREEMENTS: (D) EFFECT OF EARTHQUAKE ON CROPS BELIEVED
INSIGNIFICANT (ALTHOUGH ASSUME SOME DEGREE OF LOCALIZED
DAMAGE TO WATERWAYS AND FARM BUILDINGS) (E) NO TRADE REPORTS
OR RUMORS OF UNUSUAL GRAIN BUYING IN U.S. (ALTHOUGH MIGHT BE
TOO EARLY TO SEE THAT INDICATOR).

3. ONE TRADER TODAY CONTACTED LOCAL PRC TRADE OFFICIALS WHO
DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PRC GRAIN-PURCHASING ACTIVITIES.
(LOCAL OFFICIALDID OFFER INFORMATION THAT HEAD OF CERIORL
PEKING RESUMED HIS POST-EARTHQUAKE OFFICE OPERATIONS AS OF AUGUST
10).

4. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE MINIMAL: VERY SHORT ITEM IN AUGUST 11
EDITIONS OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE HONG KONG STANDARD AND SOUTH CHINA
MORNING POST AND CHINESE LANGUAGE SING TAO JIH PAO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FULL TEXT OF
SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON US-PRC GRAIN TRADE AND GUIDANCE FOR
HANDLING INQUIRIES.
CROSS

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